

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claims 49, 53 and 55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 45, 53 and 55 have been amended, and claim 54 has been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments appears in the original claims of the application. The amendment of claim 45 merely excludes a particular compound. Claims 53 and 55 have been amended merely to addresses formal (non-substantive amendments).

It is also believed that the amendments made herein may be properly entered at this time, i.e. after final rejection, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 because the amendments do not require a new search or raise any new issues. Indeed, it is believed the amendments place the application in conditions for allowance.

The only outstanding rejection is of claims 45-48, 50-52, 54 and 56-60 over newly cited Trefonas (U.S. Patent 6280911). Trefonas is newly cited for a certain generic formula of an N-sulfonylimide compound. See page 3 of the Office Action. The rejection is traversed.

While Applicants disagree with the rejection, independent claim 45 (the only pending independent claim) has been amended to recite that the one or more photoacid generator compounds are “other than a N-oxyimidosulfonate”.

Trefonas has only been cited for a generic formula of an N-oxyimidosulfonate.

Trefonas does not exemplify any specific compounds within the scope of the present claims.

Clearly, the skilled worker would have had no incentive to make any particular selections from the N-oxyimidatosulfonate generic formula reported in Trefonas and adapt that particular selection to other compounds.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed that the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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